

What Does it Mean To be “Born Again?”



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Introduction: Definitions	2
A reminder of the Gospel—which made all the difference.....	3
It means that...	
I have been purchased.....	8
I have a new master.....	9
I have been newly made.....	10
I have a new desire for the words of God.....	11
I have a new family.....	12
I have a new enablement.....	13
I have a new security.....	14
I have a new mission.....	15

Introduction: A reminder of what made the difference:

What does the term **“born again”** mean? In John chapter three, an older man was told by Jesus that he needed to be “born again.” Jesus made it clear in verse six of that chapter that this was not a physical birth at all, but was rather a birth that was performed by the “Holy Spirit.” Jesus said (in verse five) that as the water of a mother escorts the baby into this world, so the Spirit of God escorts a soul into the family of God by faith (3:16).

What does the term **“Gospel”** mean? As pictured below, The “good news” is that the eternal God came to earth in the form of his Dear Son through virgin conception and birth; that He lived a sinless life; that He died a substitutionary death for our sins—suffering the wrath of God on our behalf; that He arose the 3rd day from the dead; that He ascended to Heaven; and that He is coming again to take us unto Himself.

The Gospel 

The Person and Work of Christ

the Human Response must include:
Repentance (turn) toward God
Confessing Faith (trust) in the Lord Jesus Christ

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We have been radically changed by the Gospel!

Consider the message of the Gospel. What do we mean when we say “Gospel?” Here’s an easy way to remember!

Six Pegs: G-O-S-P-E-L

“Repent and believe the Gospel.” Mark 1:15

So, here we have six letters to help us understand what it means for you to “believe the Gospel.”

First, notice the author.

First Peg: G-O-S-P-E-L

*“I have preached to you **the Gospel of God** freely.”*

2 Corinthians 11:7

You cannot really believe the Gospel if you don’t believe in the God of the Bible. You have found out that it takes more than just believing in a historical figure by the name of “Jesus” for you to be assured of your home in Heaven.

Second, notice the offense.

Second Peg: G-O-S-P-E-L
“Against thee and thee only have I sinned.”
Psalm 51:4

By now you have realized that when you committed a sin, it was not so much an offense against man as it was an offense against God! David mentioned this in Psalm 51:4 when he acknowledged his sin against Urijah in stealing his wife and murdering him. He didn't even mention Urijah or Bathsheeba in this Psalm! He talks about his offense against the “Lawgiver Who is able to save and to destroy” (James 4:12).

Third, notice the solution.

Third Peg: G-O-S-P-E-L
“God sent forth His Son.” Galatians 4:4

The amazing thing about the “God” Whom we have offended is that He has planned the solution! That is to say that while we as criminals offended the law of the land, the presiding Judge provided a solution both satisfying His hatred for sin and His love for His creation. What did He do?

Fourth, notice the person.

What did He do? He provided His own Son.

Fourth Peg: G-O-S-P-E-L

“He had by Himself purged our sins.” Hebrews 1:3

That is, Jesus left Heaven and became a man to die for the sins of His people. Jesus was the perfect, sinless, harmless Son of God (Hebrews 7:25-27). He appeared before men to be their peace offering to God (Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 2:2)—satisfying the rightful wrath of this offended God.

Fifth, notice the experience.

He experienced a Roman crucifixion, yet He laid down His life. He was not victimized. He died for others (John 10:17-19; 15:13)—paying for their sin.

Fifth Peg: G-O-S-P-E-L

“He was despised and rejected of men...He bore our sins...We esteemed Him smitten of God.”

Isaiah 53:3-4



Sixth, notice that He lives again!

Sixth Peg: G-O-S-P-E-L

*“[Jesus] was delivered [to death] for our offenses, and **raised again** for our justification.” Romans 4:25*

This makes us sure that as He lives again, so we shall live also. Jesus is the resurrection and those who believe in Him will live again (John 11:25-27).

It is such a reality that Paul the Apostle describes it as a present reality (Ephesians 2:5-6). We testify to this truth when we are baptized in the likeness of His death and resurrection (Romans 6:4-6).

“Baptism” will be discussed more in the booklet entitled “Baptism: The First Step.”

So, what does it mean?

I have been purchased.

Peter the apostle was telling us that those who have been saved are acknowledging Jesus Christ's bloody sacrifice to purchase us from our old master.

1 Peter 1:18-19

*“Forasmuch as ye know that you were not **redeemed** with corruptible things as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers. **But** **with the precious blood of Christ** as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

Additional Scriptures:

Matthew 20:28

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

2 Peter 2:1

What else does it mean?

I have a new master.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“What? Know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own? For ye bought with a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God’s.”

Paul the apostle was teaching us that when you acknowledge the purchase of you as a sinner by virtue of Jesus’ blood, you must then acknowledge His ownership in your life.

Additional Scriptures:

Psalm 34:10

Psalm 100:2

Romans 1:1

What else does it mean?

I have been newly made.

2 Corinthians 5:17

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature.
Old things are passed away. Behold all things are become new.”*

Paul the apostle was telling the believer that he or she has been given a fresh start and a new beginning. Having the “new birth” (mentioned in John 3:3) means that there is new life! What does this mean?

Additional Scriptures:

Romans 12:2

Ephesians 4:24

Colossians 3:10

What else does it mean?

I have a new desire for the words of God.

Psalm 19:7-10

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the

soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Do you see that David talks about the “Law of God” first of all “converting the soul?” Later on, David says that this “Law of the LORD” is “to be desired” by that “converted” servant. We are to understand ourselves as newborns who have a desire for the new food for the spirit.

Additional Scriptures:

Matthew 4:4

Luke 4:4

1 Peter 2:2

What else does it mean?

I have a new family.

Matthew 12:46-50

“While he yet talked to the people, behold, His mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

Matthew records Jesus’ words. Jesus is saying that His most significant familial relationship is with those who are concerned with the will of His Father.

What is the will of His Father?

“If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”

Jesus is communicating that following the will of God is indicative of one who knows Jesus. Take a look at John 17:3 and notice that one who truly knows the Father is one that also knows the Son.

What else does it mean?

I have a new enablement.

We find supernatural strength to endure difficult times when we rest in the Lord. We have the ability to enjoy difficulty and we find contentment in our current state. The presence of God undergirds us and we realize we are not just trying to ruggedly muscle ourselves to our objectives.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Additional Scriptures:

Psalm 37:7

Isaiah 40:30-31

2 Timothy 2:1

What else does it mean?

I have a new security.

We have nothing to dread as believers. We are not afraid of death or losing our place in the grace of God. We have all of the confidence in the world that our salvation is really “God’s salvation.” He can manage it well.

Romans 8:38-39

For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Additional Scriptures:

John 10:28-29

Ephesians 1:13

1 Peter 1:3-4

What else does it mean?

I have a new mission.

When a person gets saved, they find that they are concerned for their loved ones and those in their spheres of influence. They find that the same fear that drove them to God is not a motivator to bring others to God.

2 Corinthians 5:11-14

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences. For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart. For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause. For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

Additional Scriptures:

Mark 16:15

1 Corinthians 9:22

Jude 22-23

Conclusion:

*The Pastors of this church strongly desire your spiritual growth. Are there questions that you have that are not answered in this booklet?
Call or email a pastor today.*